ROSENBERG • GORHAM • GARLAND

MARVEL

THE NEW MUTANTS

DEAD SOULS #1

HATCHI CORPORATION RELIEF CENTER.
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.
SIXTY-FIVE, SIXTY-SIX, SIXTY-SEVEN...
48 HOURS AFTER HURRICANE ELENA MADE LANDFALL.
...SIXTY--
THUMP
UMM...
KICK
HELLO?
HEY! I THINK WE NEED A MEDIC DOWN HERE! WE'VE GOT A LIVE--
AHHH!

THE NEW MUTANTS

DEAD SOULS

RICTOR (JULIO RICHTER) | **BOOM-BOOM** (TABITHA SMITH) | **MAGIK** (ILLYANA RASPUTIN) | **STRONG GUY** (GUIDO CAROSELLA) | **WOLFSBANE** (RAHNE SINCLAIR)

BORN WITH AN X-GENE THAT GRANTS THEM WEIRD AND UNCANNY ABILITIES, MUTANTS ARE THOUGHT TO BE THE NEXT STEP IN HUMAN EVOLUTION. THOSE WHO SUBSCRIBE TO THE PRECEPTS OF MUTANT ACTIVIST CHARLES XAVIER USE THEIR ABILITIES FOR HUMANITARIAN AID, OFTEN FINDING THEMSELVES DRAWN INTO WEIRD AND UNCANNY PHENOMENA…

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CHAPTER 1: NEW DAWN FADES

MATTHEW **ROSENBERG** WRITER | ADAM **GORHAM** ARTIST

MICHAEL **GARLAND** COLOR ARTIST | VC's CLAYTON **COWLES** LETTERER

RYAN **STEGMAN** & MICHAEL **GARLAND** MAIN COVER ARTISTS

MARCOS **MARTIN**; BILLY **MARTIN** VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

ADAM **DEL RE** & ANTHONY **GAMBINO** GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

CHRIS **ROBINSON** ASSISTANT EDITOR | DARREN **SHAN** EDITOR | MARK **PANICCIA** X-MEN GROUP EDITOR

C.B. **CEBULSKI** EDITOR IN CHIEF | JOE **QUESADA** CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN **BUCKLEY** PRESIDENT | ALAN **FINE** EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

18 HOURS LATER...

JUST PUT THE CAT DOWN, GUIDO.

I DON'T WORK FOR YOU, JULIO.

IF THE BOSS SAYS I CAN'T KEEP IT, *THEN* I PUT IT DOWN.

RICTOR.

JULIO RICHTER. RESIDENT SNARKY JERK. MAKES EARTHQUAKES. GIVES ZERO %$&#S.

YOU CAN'T KEEP IT.

HA!

BUT HE'S SO LITTLE AND CUTE.

BOSS LADY SPOKE, BIG MAN. LOSE THE CAT.

OH, LET HIM KEEP HIS CAT! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, RICTOR?

WE'RE HERE ON A MISSION, *TABITHA.* IT'S NOT AN ANIMAL RESCUE.

YEAH. WHY *ARE* WE IN... *WHEREVER WE ARE,* ILLYANA?

MAYBE IT IS. WHO KNOWS WHY *SHE* BROUGHT US HERE?

NOT FOR CATS.

SHE'S A *KITTEN.*

FINE. WE HAVE TWO VOTES TO KEEP IT. TWO VOTES TO LOSE IT. RAHNE?

AH DON'T REALLY LIKE CATS.

WOLFSBANE.

RAHNE SINCLAIR. MORAL COMPASS. SCOTTISH WEREWOLF. DOESN'T LIKE CATS.

FOR ALL WE KNOW HER OWNERS DIED IN THE STORM. SHE CAN'T SURVIVE OUT HERE ON HER OWN, ILLYANA. SHE'S JUST A KITTEN!

WHOA! I DON'T... *UHH...*

SHRAK

MAGIK.

ILLYANA RASPUTIN. TEAM LEADER / GOTH MUTANT TELEPORTER. WITCH. SOMETIMES DEMON QUEEN OF LIMBO.

SHRAK

NOT A KITTEN ANYMORE.

SHE CAN MAKE STUFF *OLD?!*

TIME WORKS DIFFERENTLY IN LIMBO...

...AND SHE CONTROLS THAT, I GUESS?

YEAH. WHATEVER. SINCE WHEN CAN SHE MAKE STUFF OLD?!

WAIT. ÷SNIFF÷ AH THINK AH FOUND SOMETHIN'.

PROBABLY ANOTHER CAT.

I'LL HELP YA, RAHNE. IT'S UNDER HERE?

STRONG GUY.

GUIDO CAROSELLA. TEAM STRONG GUY. HE'S STRONG...LOST HIS SOUL. GOT IT BACK.

I'M GUIDO CAROSELLA. I'M HERE TO RESCUE YOU.

HELLO. WE'RE--

STAY AWAY FROM US, YOU MONSTERS!

RUN! DON'T LET THEM GET YOU!

GOD, I DID NOT MISS THIS.

NOT THE REACTION I WAS EXPECTING, TO BE HONEST.

MAYBE NEXT TIME WE SHOULDN'T PUT THE WEREWOLF AND THE OGRE AT THE FRONT OF THE WELCOME PARADE.

SO...YOU ALL SEE THAT GUY THAT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE WAS EATING HIM, RIGHT?

THIS MIGHT BE WHY THEY WERE SPOOKED.

MIGHT BE.

DON'T DO THAT.

DO WHAT?

YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE FUN OF ME.

HONEY, I'M NOT TRYING.

BOTH OF YOU STOP TALKING FOR A WHILE.

SHRAK

SHLICK

MAGIK ALSO HAS A MAGICAL SWORD. SHE'S KIND OF HARD TO EXPLAIN.

OH...I BET *THAT'S* WHY WE'RE HERE.

THUMP

ARE WE GONNA TALK ABOOT WHAT THAT WAS BACK THERE?
I THINK IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS...
ILLYANA CUT SOME RANDOM DUDE'S HEAD OFF BECAUSE HE SNUCK UP ON HER.
HE WAS A *ZOMBIE,* LIKE ON *THE WALKING DEAD.*
AH'VE NOT SEEN THAT SHOW.
I MEANT THE COMIC.
THEY MADE THAT INTAE A *COMIC?*
HEY, BOSS? WHEN STRONG GUY WAS DIGGING THOSE PEOPLE OUT YOU SAID THAT WASN'T WHAT WE WERE HERE FOR. SINCE WHEN DO THE *X-MEN* NOT HELP PEOPLE?
WE'RE NOT X-MEN ANYMORE.
WELL--
KOSH!
ALL RIGHT, MONSTERS, WE'RE TAKIN' OUR TOWN BACK!
DID WE JUST GET CALLED MONSTERS AGAIN? WHAT YEAR IS THIS?

AH'M NO' GONNA HURT YE. JUST GIMME THE BAT!

YOU GET THAT WE'RE THE *GOOD GUYS,* RIGHT?

STAY BACK.

BOOM

OKAY, COUNTRY FOLK. THAT'S ENOUGH FUN.

KEEP IN MIND THAT I HAVE VERY LITTLE PATIENCE FOR LIES RIGHT NOW. WHY DID YOU ATTACK US?

AFTER THE STORM, WE WERE MOVED TO ONE OF THOSE CORPORATE-RUN EMERGENCY CAMPSITES 'BOUT A MILE FROM HERE.

BUT YESTERDAY WE HAD TO RUN BECAUSE THEY TOOK OVER THE CAMP. WE THOUGHT YOU WERE WITH THEM.

"THEM" WHO?

THE DEAD.

SHOW US.

BOOM-BOOM.

TABITHA SMITH.
BACKUP SNARKY JERK.
BLOWS &$#& UP.
LOOKS GOOD DOING IT.

THERE WERE A LOT OF US STAYING HERE, MAYBE 100. NOW IT'S JUST US.

AH'M SO SORRY. YER SURE NO ONE'S LEFT?

MAYBE ONE OR TWO GOT OUT. BUT THE ONLY PLACE ANYONE COULDA SURVIVED WAS THE TRAILERS.

AND THE GUYS FROM THE HATCHI CORPORATION LOCKED US OUT OF THOSE WHEN THINGS STARTED TO GO DOWN.

CHARMING.

MAYBE WE SHOULD PAY THEM A VISIT.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

CH-BOOM

C'MON, MAN! NEW SHIRT!

WHOA! I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!

9 TENSE MINUTES LATER...

I CAN'T REMEMBER SOME OF THE DETAILS. I JUST DRAW A BLANK. BUT NEXT THING I KNEW, THE...I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL THEM.

DEAD PEOPLE.

YEAH...THEY JUST ROSE UP AND BEGAN ATTACKING US. THEY KILLED MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN THE CAMP AND THEN THEY WANDERED OFF.

AND YOU JUST HAPPENED TO SURVIVE?

I WAS LUCKY. I GOT TO THE COORDINATION TRAILER AND HOLED UP IN THERE.

REAL LUCKY.

THIS GUY DIDN'T WANDER OFF.

YEAH, SOME OF THE REALLY MANGLED ONES DON'T MOVE. I DON'T KNOW.

REMIND ME NEVER TO LET GUIDO TOUCH ME EVER AGAIN.

SAME.

SHE'S NOT MANGLED.

YEAH. I...I DON'T KNOW THE RULES.

JUST TELLING YOU WHAT WE NOTICED.

I'M SORRY, OLD SOUL.

SO, LISTEN... IF YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE THE HATCHI CORPORATION SENT YOU TO RESCUE US--

WE'RE NOT.

BUT I THOUGHT THAT'S WHY THEY HIRED SUPER HEROES. TO MAKE SURE--

YOU HAVE A REAL PENCHANT FOR MISGUIDED THOUGHTS, DON'T YOU?

RUN! RUN!

OH, NO! THE DEAD ARE COMING BACK. YOU'VE GOT TO GET US OUT OF HERE.

SHRAK

I GUESS WE'RE UP.

THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THAT CAMP BEHIND US. IF THESE THINGS MAKE IT PAST US, THEY ALL DIE.

JUST THIS ONCE...

I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T DOING THE BIG SUPER HERO THING ANYMORE?

LET'S DO THE BIG SUPER HERO THING.

@$%& YEAH.

HOLD YOUR GROUND, NEW MUTANTS!

THEY'RE GETTIN' THROUGH! THEY'RE ALMOST INSIDE THE CAMP!

FALL BACK TO INSIDE THE FENCE! RICTOR, BOOM-BOOM, BUY US SOME ROOM!

YOU HAVE TO GET US OUT OF HERE! WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!

THE CREEP IS RIGHT, ILLYANA. WE CAN'T HOLD MUCH LONGER. 'PORT US OUT.

YOU GOT IT, BOSS.

NO.

SHRAK

UMM... DID SHE JUST DITCH US?

WE JUST LOST OUR RIDE. NO BIG DEAL. LET'S ALAMO THIS @#&% FOR THE WIN!

YOU KNOW I'M MEXICAN, RIGHT?

YOU KNOW WE LOST THAT ONE, RIGHT?

SHE'S BACK.

SHRAK

OH, THANK GOD. SHE BRING BACKUP?

BZZZZZ

DO FLIES COUNT?

ACH. THIS DAY JUST KEEPS GETTIN' BETTER.

WAIT...

YOU. COME HERE.

PLEASE! JUST GET US OUT OF HERE!

SHE WANTS WHAT IS HERS.

I DON'T KNOW...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

JUST RETURN IT.

I... I DON'T KNOW WHY I TOOK IT.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
THEY ALL JUST DIED? AGAIN?
WAS THAT US? DID WE WIN?
IT MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO APOLOGIZE.
I DON'T REMEMBER TAKING--
APOLOGIZE.
I'M S-SORRY.
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
NO. YOU DON'T.
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, MA'AM.
THAT'S IT? YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LET...THAT *THING* WALK OUT OF HERE?!
SHE COST DOZENS OF PEOPLE THEIR LIVES!
NO. *YOU* DID. AND I'LL MAKE SURE OUR EMPLOYER HOLDS YOU ACCOUNTABLE FOR THAT.
NEXT TIME YOU WANT TO BE A GRAVE ROBBER, MAKE SURE YOUR VICTIM ISN'T A *WITCH,* YOU DUMB--

HATCHI CORPORATION HEADQUARTERS.
LATER...

HOLD ON, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. YOU'RE SAYING HE'S JUST AN OLD MAN IN A BIRD COSTUME?

YEAH, EVERYONE KNOWS THAT.

THAT CAN'T BE--

ATTENTION! COMMANDER ON DECK.

THAT'S CUTE, JULIO. I SEE GETTING HIT IN THE HEAD BY A BOTTLE DIDN'T MAKE YOU TAKE THIS MORE SERIOUSLY.

MAGIK TOLD?

SHE DID.

I DID HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS, THOUGH, ILLYANA.

SUCCESSFUL MISSION. IT'S ALL IN MY REPORT, SHAN.

A SUCCESSFUL FIRST MISSION WHERE ONE OF YOU GOT HIT WITH A BOTTLE, ANOTHER GOT SHOT, YOU THREATENED ONE OF MY EMPLOYEES AND YOU LET AN UNDEAD WITCH GO OFF AND WANDER THE COUNTRYSIDE.

THAT'S RIGHT.

KARMA.

XI'AN "SHAN" COY MANH. TEAM FINANCIER. FORMER NEW MUTANT. CURRENT C.E.O. OF THE HATCHI CORPORATION. PSYCHIC POSSESSION. TELEPATHY.

EXPLAIN WHY YOU LET THE WITCH GO.

WE PASSED HER HOME. IT WAS COVERED IN NORSE RUNES, HAITIAN VODOU AND WUNDAGORIAN FOLK MAGIC.

THEY WERE SYMBOLS OF PROTECTION. SHE TRIED TO SAVE HER TOWN. SHE FAILED.

AND YOU STATED IN YOUR REPORT, WITH ***GREAT CERTAINTY,*** THAT THIS WHOLE THING WAS SIMPLY AN ISOLATED INCIDENT?

WHY ARE WE IN TROUBLE FOR STOPPING A ZOMBIE--

THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE DOWN THERE, SHAN. I'M SORRY.

SHE WORE JEWELRY WITH THE SAME SYMBOLS. SHE WAS TRYING TO PROTECT HER SOUL, TOO, BUT YOUR EMPLOYEE BROKE THE SEAL WHEN HE STOLE ONE OF HER RINGS AND SHE ENDED UP IN LIMBO. SO I WENT TO GET HER.

RAISING THE DEAD WAS JUST AN OVERREACTION ON HER PART.

AND HOW DID YOU KNOW FOR SURE THAT RETURNING THIS WITCH'S STOLEN RING WOULD BREAK HER CURSE?

JUST GOT LUCKY.

WELL, I'M NOT PAYING YOU SO YOU CAN CONTINUE TO ACT LIKE XAVIER'S LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM. I EXPECT A MINIMUM OF PROFESSIONALISM AND A MODICUM OF RESPECT.

IF YOU WANTED PROFESSIONAL MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE PICKED A *DIFFERENT* TEAM.

I DID. CANNONBALL, SUNSPOT, MAGMA, SKIDS...BUT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAD NOTHING ELSE GOING ON IN YOUR LIVES.

SO WHEN YOU'RE OUT THERE, REPRESENTING ME AND *MY* COMPANY, TRY AND DO YOUR JOBS LIKE YOU WERE TRAINED.

IS NOW A GOOD TIME TO ASK WHAT OUR JOBS ACTUALLY ARE? WHY IS ALL THIS SO SECRETIVE?

YOU INVESTIGATE PARANORMAL OCCURRENCES, RICTOR.

YEAH, BUT WHY US? STRANGE, VOODOO, THAT TWINK FROM THE YOUNG AVENGERS, THAT'S THEIR SCENE. SINCE WHEN DO YOU CARE?

EXCUSE ME, SHAN?

HI, EVERYONE.

HI, RICTOR.

MY SEARCHES FOUND SOMETHING MATCHING OUR CRITERIA.

I'M NOT SURE IF THE TEAM IS READY TO--

WE'RE READY.

PRODIGY.

DAVID ALLEYNE. USED TO HAVE THE MUTANT ABILITY TO BE FREAKISHLY SMART. NO LONGER A MUTANT. STILL REALLY SMART.

ANOTHER MISSION ALREADY? IS THIS ONE ALSO GONNA BE DUMB BULL--

SHRAK

SHE KNOWS IT'S REAL RUDE WHEN SHE DOES THAT, RIGHT?

YES, PRODIGY. SHE KNOWS.

DAVID IS FINE.

CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT.

HIT HIM!

HIT THE FREAK!

HIT THE *MUTIE!*

LEMME GO!

THWOK

OOF!

SCREW YOU! I'M NOT A MUTANT!

OH, YEAH? IF YOU'RE NOT A MUTANT YOU WON'T MIND PROVING IT TO US.

HOW WOULD I PROVE THAT, GENIUS?

"IF YOU AREN'T A MUTANT YOU'LL HAVE NO PROBLEM GOING INTO THE WOODS...

"...AND TELLING *THE ALONE MAN.* RIGHT? HE EATS MUTANTS ALIVE."

"I--I CAN DO THAT..."

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE NEW MUTANTS
DEAD SOULS

THE NEW MUTANTS: DEAD SOULS #2 NEXT MONTH

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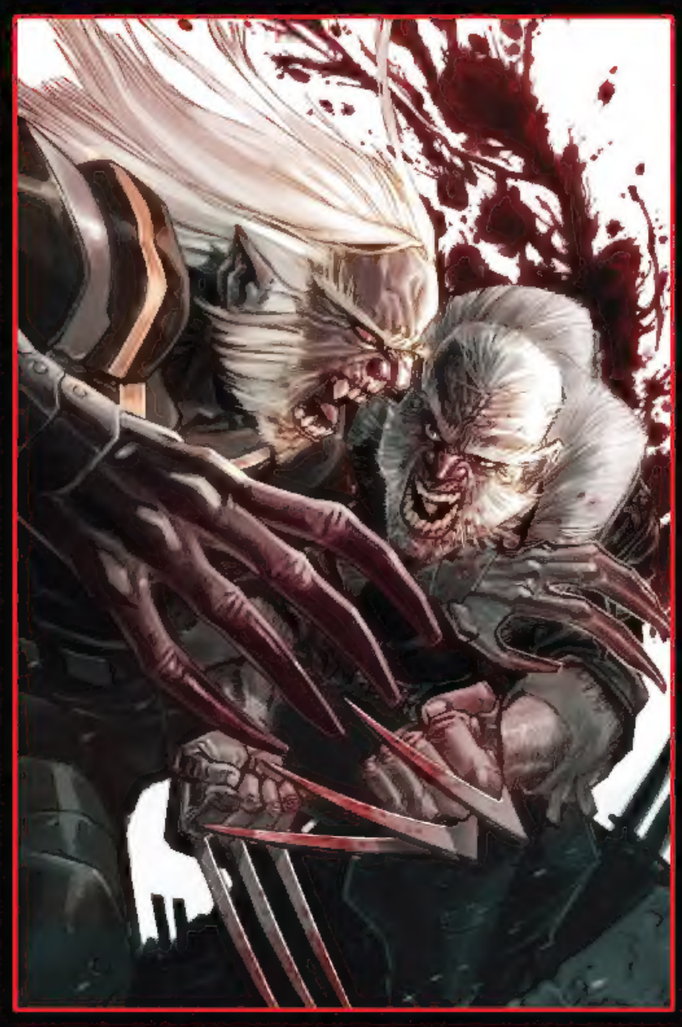

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